

## Project Impact:

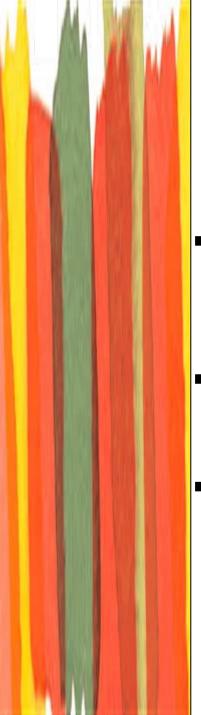
The Impact of the Massachusetts Health Care Reform and Mammography Screening

National Conference on Health Communication,
Marketing, and Media
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Research Fellow

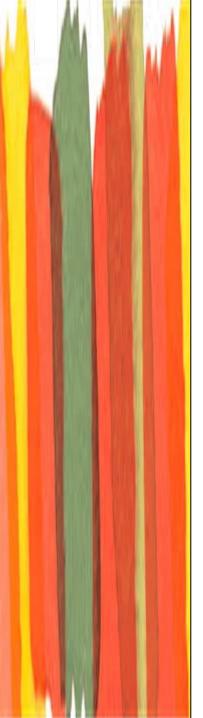
Harvard School of Public Health/Dana Farber Cancer Center



#### **MassCONECT**

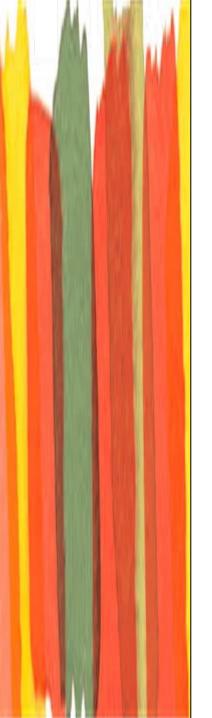
Massachusetts Community Networks to Eliminate Cancer Disparities through Education, Research, and Training www.hsph.harvard.edu/php/massconect

- Established in 2005 as one of 25 national Community Network Programs funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).
- Led by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Key program partners:
  - Boston Alliance for Community Health
  - Boston REACH 2010 Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition
  - Common Pathways (Worcester, MA)
  - The Mayor's Health Task Force (Lawrence, MA)



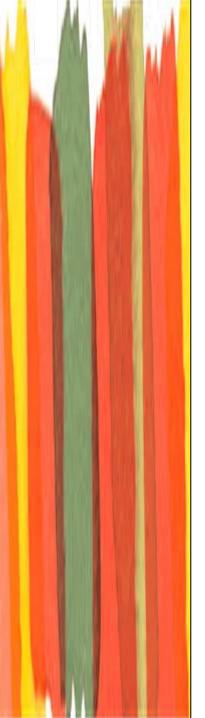
#### **MassCONECT**

- Program objectives are to:
  - (1) Provide cancer education and increase use of cancer prevention and clinical services among residents of low socioeconomic position
  - (2) Conduct **research** on cancer disparities to help guide community action
  - (3) **Train** junior faculty, grassroots leaders, and the media on ways to reduce cancer disparities
  - Principal Investigator: Howard Koh,
     MD, MPH

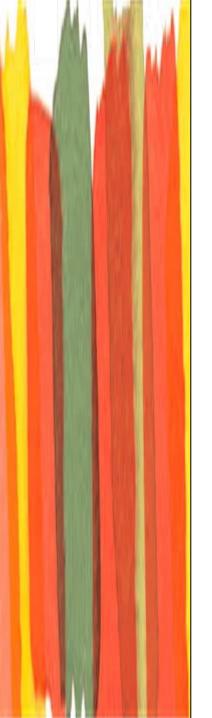


# **Projects**

- Lawrence Needs Assessment
- Lawrence Focus Groups on Mammography Screening
- Health and Cancer Disparities Media
   Workshops in Lawrence, Worcester, and Boston
- Health and Cancer Disparities Health Journalists Study
- Project Impact: The Impact of Massachusetts Health Care Reform and Mammography Screening



Project Impact:
The Impact of Massachusetts
Health Care Reform and
Mammography Screening



# Background

- ■Mammography screening has historically been lowest among traditionally underserved socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups, women without insurance, and older women. Similar disparities are also seen in treatment (Bigby & Holmes, 2005).
- •Minority women in Boston suffer disproportionately higher breast cancer mortality compared to White women, with the rate for Black women at 24.9/100,000 and 17.8/100,000 for White women (Bigby, et al., 2003).
- •Aggressive efforts are under way to equalize these disparities in screening and treatment.



## Massachusetts Health Care Reform

Massachusetts has recently adopted landmark legislation mandating insurance coverage among all of its citizens. Individuals who have incomes at or less than 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL), have full coverage with no deductibles through Commonwealth Care Health Insurance Program (CC). Screening is included as a covered service.

Prior to Health Care Reform, it was estimated that more than 500,000 Massachusetts residents were without health insurance (Cook, 2005). As a result, mammography exams for age eligible, uninsured women were underutilized prior to the legislation.



### Study Aims

- •Specific Aim #1: To ascertain the perceptions of the Massachusetts health care reform Legislation among previously uninsured women who are newly enrolled in Commonwealth Care and to assess barriers and facilitators to screening in light of this coverage.
- •Specific Aim #2: To estimate the effect of Commonwealth Care coverage on mammography screening utilization for individuals earning at or below 100% of FPL who were previously uninsured.



# Study Design

This design, conducted in **two phases**, provides both experiential (focus groups), and behavioral/utilization data (claims data), yielding a detailed picture of the effect of the new health legislation and its impact on screening



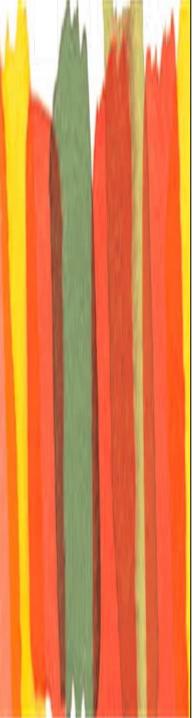
### Phase 1

- Phase 1- Focus Groups: To address aim #1 of this study, we will conduct a series of focus groups with women earning less than 100% FPL and newly enrolled in Commonwealth Care and who selected one of the two health centers as their provider.
- The objectives of the focus groups are to probe indepth, the perceptions of women of health care reform and its impact on them receiving health care services including mammography screening.
- •Focus groups will be held at the beginning of the study and toward the end of the study to assess any changes in the women's perceptions of the understanding of health care reform and impact on screening.



#### Phase 2

- Phase 2: Longitudinal Evaluation of Screening Rates: To address aim #2, we will gather and analyze a variety of secondary data-claims data, chart reviews, and patient records, for two years prior to health care legislation and one year after.
- Recent health organizations have called for studies to examine the use of the claims data to address issues of cancer surveillance. Studies using claims-based data are usually population-based and have the potential to address a number of priority questions including disparities in health care based on demographic characteristics and the quality of cancer care (NIH, 2003).



## Dissemination of Findings

- Community Advocacy Groups (13 neighborhood Groups)
- Community Health Centers
- MassCONECT Partners –Boston, Worcester, Lawrence
- Public Policy and Advocacy Groups
- Peer-review publications
- Conference and meeting presentations
- Media Outreach Campaigns